

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 INT-05 L-03 FRB-03 OMB-01 ITC-01

SP-02 USIA-06 AGR-05 AID-05 CIAE-00 COME-00 INR-07

IO-13 LAB-04 NSAE-00 OIC-02 SIL-01 STR-04 TRSE-00

CIEP-01 CEA-01 GSA-01 /085 W
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R 121520Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0708

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EMIN, UNCTAD, UK

SUBJECT: COPPER -- UK REACTIONS TO UNCTAD COPPER
CONSULTATIONS

REF: STATE 82484

1. UK DEL CHIEF TO RECENT UNCTAD CONSULTATIONS ON COPPER (MICHAEL JOHNSON) TOLD EMBOFF APRIL 9 HE WAS QUITE SATISFIED WITH COURSE OF COPPER CONSULTATIONS. JOHNSON GAVE US DEL VERY HIGH MARKS FOR ITS OPENING STATEMENT WHICH SET TONE OF MEETING AND PROVIDED ANALYTICAL FRAMEWORK. HE OBSERVED THAT MEETING WAS NOTABLE FOR CONSTRUCTIVE ATTITUDE OF CONSUMERS, WHO HAD OBVIOUSLY SPENT TIME BEFOREHAND ANALYZING PROBLEM. PRODUCERS, ON OTHER HAND, AS A GROUP WERE WEAK AND SEEMED TO BE "LOOKING FOR HELP".

2. JOHNSON'S ACCOUNT OF UNCTAD SECRETARIAT'S EFFORT TO GUIDE DISCUSSIONS WAS SIMILAR TO THAT IN GENEVA 2331.

3. RE NEXT STEPS, JOHNSON SAID HE STRONGLY FAVORED
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A PERMANENT ORGANIZATION WITH INDEPENDENT BUDGET AND

SECRETARIAT BEYOND THE CONTROL OF UNCTAD. HE THOUGHT IT WAS MOST IMPORTANT TO PLACE FUTURE COPPER CONSULTATIONS ON A TECHNICAL BASIS, WITH POLITICAL CONSIDERATION HELD TO A MINIMUM. HE SEEMED TO THINK THAT MATTERS WERE MOVING IN THIS DIRECTION. QUESTIONED ABOUT THE SITE FOR ANY FUTURE COPPER GROUP, JOHNSON PERSONALLY FAVORED LONDON. HE THOUGHT THAT THE ATMOSPHERE WITH HMG WAS PARTICULARLY GOOD AT THE PRESENT TIME FOR THIS BUT NOTED THAT HOSTSHIP WOULD HAVE TO BE CAREFULLY NEGOTIATED AND THE INTERIM COMMITTEE WOULD HAVE TO COME UP WITH A PROPOSAL BEFORE ANYTHING COULD BE DONE. HE ADDED THAT HE WAS CURRENTLY INVOLVED IN EFFORT TO BE ABLE TO MAKE A HOSTSHIP OFFER TO THE LEAD AND ZINC STUDY GROUP.

ARMSTRONG

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: COPPER, IMPORTERS, EXPORTERS, MEETING REPORTS, GOVERNMENT REACTIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 12 APR 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: ElyME
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976LONDON05652
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760138-0348
From: LONDON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760472/aaaacjfk.tel
Line Count: 77
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EB
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 76 STATE 82484
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: ElyME
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 10 MAY 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <10 MAY 2004 by woolflhd>; APPROVED <10 SEP 2004 by ElyME>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: COPPER -- UK REACTIONS TO UNCTAD COPPER CONSULTATIONS
TAGS: EMIN, UK, UNCTAD
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006